Intervención

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66 PERÍODO DE SESIONES DE LA
ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

REUNIÓN ALTO NIVEL SOBRE SEGURIDAD NUCLEAR

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Verifier contra el discurso pronunciado

Statement Delivered by

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66th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON NUCLEAR SAFETY AND SECURITY

New York, 22 September, 2011

Check against delivery
The nuclear emergency at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, caused by a series of unfortunate natural events has triggered a series of reactions and concerns by the governments and civil society over the use of nuclear energy and nuclear safety regime.

In response to these concerns, the UN Secretary General has invited governments, international agencies and NGOs to this meeting to review and learn from the lessons that were left to us by this tragic event.

The International Atomic Energy Agency-IAEA-, in fulfilling its mandate and aware of the importance of security, has been promoting the establishment of standards and international instruments on radiation protection and physical safety in the nuclear field.

Colombia recognizes the critical role played by the IAEA in attention and response to the nuclear accident in Fukushima, as well as in evaluating this case. However, our country considers it essential to strengthen the regulatory framework established by the Agency and by each State in order to comply with the scientific and technological advances in the nuclear field and to allow us to work on the deficiencies identified during this emergency.

This joint effort must be also based on the experience acquired on the subject by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Their participation will make it possible to achieve the objective of strengthening nuclear safety and the mechanisms for prevention and response to nuclear emergencies.

In addition to the work we undertake at multilateral level to improve safety in this field, we must be aware of the importance of the efforts that we assume as States. Hence the meaning of strengthening the role of our national authorities in regulation, so that they can fulfill the task they have commissioned.

Colombia, as a signal of its commitment in this field, is a State Party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and has initiated internal procedures to present to the Congress of the Republic the Amendment to the Convention. We firmly believed that this strengthens the nuclear security regime including physical protection of nuclear facilities, internal transportation, and storage and use of nuclear materials nationwide.

In addition to the above, recognizing the need for timely information to minimize transboundary effects and the importance of international cooperation to deal with nuclear emergencies, our country is a party to the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, legal instruments that establish the framework for response to such emergencies.

Colombia also considers it necessary a treaty to regulate transport of radioactive waste. This instrument would complement safety standards already existing on this matter and that are becoming more important due to increased international traffic in these materials.

The consequences of a nuclear accident go beyond national borders and affect human health and the environment, so we must work within our countries and with international organizations that have mandate in the field, to improve safety standards and to prevent disasters such as the one occurred in Japan from recurring.

Thank you very much.